



Enterprise Collaboration Services (ECS)

What is it?

Army Enterprise Collaboration Services (ECS) will improve knowledge management and promote IT efficiency through the delivery of collaboration capabilities as a managed service. By using existing licenses to provide access to centrally managed versions of Microsoft SharePoint® and IBM FileNet®, the Army will enable team collaboration, content management, records management and business process management among all Army users, regardless of location. These enterprise services also will integrate with the systems used by Army forces during training and deployment. While the Army will retain oversight of ECS, its day-to-day management will rest with the service provider, the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

Why is this important to the Army?

Today's collaboration environment is limited to local SharePoint® enclaves, making it both difficult and costly to share information across the Army. An enterprise collaboration environment will allow users at different locations to work together easily, improving overall Army productivity and efficiency. It also will help users find and connect with those who have the right expertise and experience. In addition, ECS will create new opportunities to integrate enterprise information systems the Army already owns into a common set of Army Information Management (AIM) services. As individual Army organizations will not have to take on the extra cost and risks associated with server hosting, operation and maintenance, ECS also will generate savings.

What has the Army done?

The Chief Information Officer/G-6, with help from Army commands, has developed an initial enterprise collaboration baseline and received a service proposal from DISA. CIO/G-6 also has captured lessons learned by various Army service providers during their implementations of SharePoint® and FileNet®. In addition, the Enterprise Governance Board has designated representatives from each command to serve on the ECS Tiger Team, which will shape future ECS activities, such as development of the concept of operations, service-level agreements and real-world test cases for the enterprise environment.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The ECS program received FY 11 end-of-year funds to accelerate implementation of the SharePoint® and FileNet® service offering. This funding will support, among other things: test and validation of Army Information Management requirements; verification of SharePoint® and FileNet® integration at the enterprise level; alignment of the ECS transition plan with Army Data Center Consolidation Plan (ADCCP) timelines; and DISA user fees for Army units transitioning in FY 12. This fiscal year the Army also will design and build the initial enterprise public folder/cloud storage capability, and begin moving the Army Publishing Directorate's Enterprise Content Management Service to Defense Enterprise Computing Centers.